

EVIDENCE OF COLLABORATION REGARDING SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND EXTENDED SERVICES

Provision of Supported Employment Services

The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has a long standing inter-agency agreement with the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Disability and Elder Services (DDES), Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services to jointly fund projects for individuals with developmental disabilities who are interested in and need supported employment.

A similar collaborative agreement was established with the DDES, Bureau of Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to promote supported employment for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Projects have been awarded to certified Community Support Programs (CSP). The CSPs are either county run and/or county and state funded non-profit long-term support and treatment programs for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. These programs can provide services during the initial supported employment phase funded by VR but can also guarantee the extended services necessary for supported employment.

DVR continues to work with DHFS, DDES and the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities to establish new projects that provide models of effective supported employment services and creative ways to meet long-term support needs for individuals in supported employment.

These projects will develop and test more effective models for providing supported employment in an environment of increased demand for these services and diminishing availability of funds for extended services.

Provision of Extended Services

Wisconsin DVR has, through its local offices, working relationships regarding extended services for supported employment with most of the counties in the state. Most have processes in place to assure the extended services for individuals to be served in supported employment. These procedures have been formulated locally and therefore are unique to each county and local VR office in terms of resources and opportunities. These activities have significantly increased the number of consumers placed successfully in supported employment in Wisconsin during the last decade.

This increased demand for supported employment coupled with significant budget reductions has forced counties to reduce and/or limit the number of consumers for which they agree to provide extended services while in supported employment.

To address these problems Wisconsin DVR will provide policy guidance to VR staff to help them identify new and appropriate extended support resources. Wisconsin DVR will also seek to enter into cooperative and/or collaborative agreements to help identify new extended resources for supported employment. In addition WDVR will continue to work with state, county and local agencies to explore and identify new funding sources and mechanisms to increase the ability of counties to provide extended services/